
Determination of Practitioners for Primary Care Practitioner Status Policy

1. Purpose

This policy will clearly define which practitioners are eligible to be designated as a Primary Care Practitioner and identify how their specialties or sub-specialties will appear on the Provider Directory, describe what circumstances and the process for when a Specialty Care Practitioner may be assigned as a member's Primary Care Practitioner, and describe the process to apply for an exception to this policy.

2. Policy

Priority Health will assign the designation of Primary Care Practitioner to providers in the network, or applying for entry into the network, based on specific criteria.

A. Physicians completing formal training in the following specialties or sub-specialties can be designated as a Primary Care Practitioner if all criteria described in Appendix A, Acceptance/continued participation-Physician are met:

- 1) Family Practice
- 2) Geriatric Medicine
- 3) Internal Medicine
- 4) Internal Medicine/Pediatrics
- 5) Pediatrics

Any physician who qualifies to be designated as a Primary Care Physician under this policy who has had formal training in the specialty or sub-specialty listed above will be listed as such in our Provider Directory.

B. Physicians who have not completed formal training in the specialty or sub-specialty in which they would like to see Priority Health members may be given a designation of Primary Care Practitioner as long as they can meet the Alternate Pathway to Training Requirement as described in Appendix A, Acceptance/continued participation-Physician, which requires compliance with one of the following:

- 1) The physician has been practicing for at least two current and consecutive years in Physician's Specialty or sub-specialty.
- 2) The physician affiliates with a group practice that participates in the Priority Health network in the same specialty or sub-specialty.

Any physician who qualifies to be designated as a Primary Care Physician under this policy who has not had formal training in the specialty or sub-specialty will be given the specialty of "General Practice" for display in our Provider Directory.

C. The following advanced practice professionals may be designated as a Primary Care Practitioner if all criteria described in Appendix B.1, Acceptance/continued participation-Nurse Practitioners or B.2, Acceptance/continued participation-Physician Assistants are met:

- 1) Nurse Practitioner
- 2) Physician Assistant

In lieu of the fact that formal training is not available and to facilitate accurate display for our members, an advanced practice professional who qualifies to be designated as a Primary Care Practitioner under this policy will be given a specialty or sub-specialty as listed in paragraph A above for display in our Provider Directory.

D. Priority Health will review, on a requested case by case basis, members with chronic or complex

medical conditions that would be better managed by a physician specialist. In those instances where frequent and on-going care management of complex or chronic diseases by a physician specialist best serves primary management of a member, the member may have that specialist as their Primary Care Practitioner if all of the following are met:

- 1) Request for assignment of specialist as Primary Care Practitioner is initiated by the member.
 - 2) Chief Medical Officer or physician staff designee reviews the case to determine the appropriateness of the request.
 - 3) Health Management Staff notifies Enrollment Services for follow-up.
- E. Those practitioners not included under the above, may request an exception for designation as a Primary Care Practitioner for consideration by the Credentialing Committee. The Credentialing Committee will consider these requests on an individual basis. In order for the Credentialing Committee to consider a request, the practitioner must submit, at a minimum, the following documentation:
- 1) Written request
 - 2) Practice experience in primary care, current and/or past
 - 3) CMEs related to primary care

Requests for exception to be designated as a primary care practitioner and applicable documentation must be submitted to PH-CredentialingLeadership@priorityhealth.com

In assessing a practitioner's request for an exception to this policy, the Credentialing Committee may take into consideration:

- 1) The service area the provider is serving and the need for additional Primary Care Practitioners
- 2) Current medical record documentation based on Primary Care Practitioner Medical Record Documentation Review Tool

Priority Health will notify the practitioner of the Credentialing Committee decision within 10 business days.

3. Revisions

10/99, 8/01, 9/02, 9/03, 1/05, 2/1/067/09, 12/7/11, 6/18/19, 5/27/20, Reviewed 6/13/23, 6/10/2025

Priority Health reserves the right to alter, amend, modify or eliminate this policy at any time without prior written notice.

4. References

NCQA Network Standards (Net 1, Element B, Practitioners providing primary care_
Medicare Managed Care Manual (Chapter 12, 230.1: Definition of a Primary Care Practitioner and Primary Care Services)

[Practitioner Credentialing Overview Policy](#)

[Practitioner Recredentialing Overview & Performance Monitoring Policy](#)

Appendix A, Acceptance/continued participation-Physician

Appendix B.1, Acceptance/continued participation-Physician Assistant

Appendix B.2, Acceptance/continued participation-Nurse Practitioner